

Application No.: 10/798,465

Attorney Docket No.: LAUFNZ00200

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0030] as follow:

[0030] FIG. 2B illustrates a variation of the fastener 100 where the anchor portions 102 104 have a spherical shape. In this variation, the anchor portions 102 104 are illustrated as having a cavity 108. The cavity 108 may assist in reducing the size of the anchor portions 102 104 into the first state. Moreover, as described herein, the cavity 108 (as well as other portions of the fastener 100) may serve as a reservoir for various medications, drugs, etc. Furthermore, variations of fasteners of the present invention may be non-porous if the particular application requires (e.g., where prevention of tissue in-growth is required). Alternatively, variations of the fastener may be porous. Furthermore, the fastener may be selected such that certain portions of the fastener are porous while others are non-porous (e.g., porous anchor members combined with a non-porous connecting member, non-porous anchors with a porous connecting member, etc.) In such variations, porous materials may be selected for construction of the anchor or non-porous materials may be altered to contain pores. Such pores may facilitate tissue ingrowth.

Please amend paragraph [0046] as follow:

[0046] As discussed above, one of the functions of the inventive tissue fastener is to retain two pieces of tissue together, retain an implant to the tissue, or close an opening in tissue. The feature of the inventive fastener 100 relating to expansion of the anchor portions 102 104 permits placement of the fastener 100 using an opening in the tissue that is smaller would otherwise be required. Moreover, fasteners of the present invention may also be configured such that the central portion 106 expands into a second state as well. In such variations, expansion of the center portion may allow for expedited healing of the opening in tissue, or for closure and sealing of the opening in the tissue. In additional variations of the invention, the central portion 106 may be configured from a material that allows stretching of the center portion 106 during deployment. For example, the connecting portion may have a lower modulus of elasticity than a modulus of elasticity of either the first or second anchor.

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As shown in FIGS. 6A, such a fastener 100 having elastic properties allows for an increased compressive force on the medium being retained between the fastener. An additional benefit of such an elastic fastener is that the length of the fastener 100 (e.g., as measured in a direction along the central portion) can accommodate a greater range of tissue and/or material thicknesses.